

Rideshare Currents



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Fall 2003

Cross Sound Rideshare Initiatives is an Award-Winning Project

We brought home the Bronze! On September 15, 2003, representatives involved in the Cross Sound Rideshare Initiatives Program attended the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference in Salt Lake City and received a Bronze Medal award for "Outstanding Service in the Public Sector."

The Cross Sound Initiatives project is a partnership between Washington State Ferries, King County Metro, and Kitsap Transit developed to maximize the mobility options for ferry commuters on Puget Sound. Some of the more visible results of this partnership include the design and installation of the Commute Centers you have seen on the vessels and in the terminals, the hanging of RideshareOnline.com banners outside the vehicle loading areas and the creation of this newsletter that you are reading.

You may have also noticed representatives from Ferries, Metro and Kitsap on the vessels each quarter. This is another aspect to the Rideshare Initiatives Project, called Rideshare Plus. Rideshare Plus provides free personalized ridesharing assistance to commuters on the South and Central Sound ferry crossings by offering transportation options to driving alone - carpool, vanpool or VanShare.

In just 12 months of promotions, participation in the Ridematch system increased 110%, carpools on the ferries increased 34%, vanpools on the ferries increased 19%, VanShares to and/or from

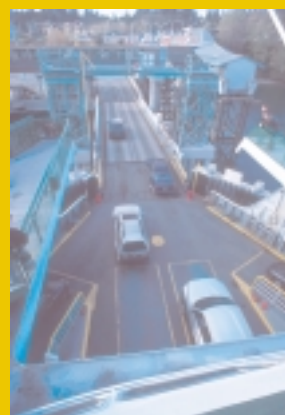
the ferry terminals increased 82% and Flexcar participation increased 500%.

ACT is made up of organizations and individuals committed to developing balanced, effective transportation systems around the country. ACT's primary mission is to provide alternatives to the solo commute, enhance mobility, improve air quality, and conserve energy through Transportation Demand Management (TDM) activities.



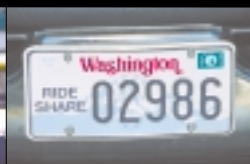
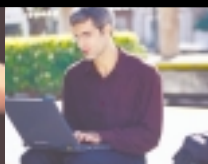
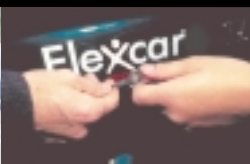
First row: Tommy Fernandez (Kitsap Transit), Cyndi Griffey (Kitsap Transit), Nicole Patrick (WSF), Randall Williams (Metro), Michelle Cavanaugh (WSF).

Back row: Dee Williams (Kitsap Transit), Tom Devlin (Metro), Clare Cronin (Metro), Julie Paone (Metro)



Inside this issue:

- Ferry Promotions 2
- Employer Tax Breaks ... 3
- Governor's Awards 3
- Commute Contacts 4





Don't Miss the Boat on Promotions!

If you're still not convinced that vanpooling or carpooling aboard the ferries is for you, there are promotions going on all the time that may persuade you otherwise.

As if priority loading and a free vehicle fare aren't enough for you to start vanpooling, when you join by December 31st, you also get:

- \$100 bonus when you become a new driver or primary bookkeeper in your Metro or Kitsap vanpool
- \$60 bonus just for joining a Metro or Kitsap vanpool
- Use these bonuses at local businesses such as REI, Union 76, AAA, YMCA, Brown Bear Car Wash or Flexcar
- Already carpooling? Trade up to a Metro or Kitsap Transit vanpool and get a month of vanpooling for free in addition to the above incentives

Rideshare Plus makes it easy to join!

Let *Rideshare Plus* do the work for you by finding someone for you to ride or drive with – **for free**. Rideshare Plus is a personalized vanpool, carpool and ridematching service providing you with hassle-free commuting solutions.

To find a match online, go to www.RideshareOnline.com

Over 25 million trips were taken on Washington State Ferries last year – most of them by commuters like yourself and those around you. Rideshare Plus will help you find someone that lives near you and/or works near you to help you share the ride.

For more information on Rideshare Plus' personalized commute assistance, visit www.RideshareOnline.com/RidesharePlus and click "I take a ferry!" or call your Rideshare Plus Representative at 206-263-6088. You can also visit the Rideshare staff during their quarterly outreach on the vessels (they'll be wearing the Rideshare hats!).

Rideshare Plus is a free service provided by King County Metro, Kitsap Transit and Washington State Ferries.

Produced by the partnerships of Washington State Ferries, King County Metro, and Kitsap Transit. Photos by Stephen J. Brown and Chris Gendron.

This information is available in accessible formats on request at 206-684-2046 or TTY 206-689-3413.



Rideshare Plus Representatives Julie Paone and Randall Williams answering ferry commuters' rideshare questions.

Tax Break for Employers

Beginning July 1, 2003, employers and property managers who provide financial incentives to their employees or to others' employees for using alternatives to drive-alone commuting may claim credit on their Department of Revenue tax return. The credit may be claimed against Business & Occupation or Public Utility tax due.

Some parameters of the tax credit follow:

- Employers/property managers may claim credit for 50% of the incentives paid to employees but the claim cannot exceed \$60 per employee per year
 - Each employer/property manager is limited to a total credit of \$200,000 per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30)
 - There is a statewide cap of \$2.25 million per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30)
- Additional information, including the credit program claim form (titled, "Commute Trip Reduction Reporting Schedule") is available from the Department of Revenue. Please call 360-902-7151 or visit their website at: <http://dor.wa.gov> (go to the "What's New" section).°

Governor's CommuteSmart Award Recipients Announced

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recently announced the 15 winning employers of the Governor's CommuteSmart Awards (list follows). The awards recognize Washington State employers for their worksite programs encouraging the use of buses, carpools, vanpools, bicycling, walking, working from home, and compressed workweeks. This year, ten CommuteSmart Awards were given in recognition of innovation and effectiveness among companies required to participate in Commute Trip Reduction. In addition, two new award categories were created. The Challenger Award honors employers that have voluntarily made commitments to reducing daily trips to the workplace: four companies were recognized.

Commute Trip Reduction shows that making transportation choices available-and promoting them-changes the way people get to work. Statewide, the program currently removes 20,700 vehicles from our roadways each weekday morning-a line of parked cars that would stretch from Olympia nearly to Everett. The program also removes 5,000 tons of pollution from our air each year and saves its participants \$9-11 million in fuel costs.

Over 500,000 employees work for employers that offer programs to help their employees reduce drive-alone commuting trips, about 27 percent of the persons who work in the nine counties affected by the Commute Trip Reduction Law.

2003 Governor's CommuteSmart Recipients CommuteSmart Awards

City of Bellevue
City of Olympia
F5 Networks, Inc., Seattle
Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, Seattle
Overlake Christian Church, Redmond
Premiera Blue Cross, Mountlake Terrace
Russell/Mellon Analytical Services, Tacoma
State Farm Insurance, DuPont
Swedish Medical Center, Seattle
Washington State Department of Ecology, Lacey

CommuteSmart Challenger Awards

American Lung Association of Washington, Seattle
Climate Solutions, Olympia
Community Health Association of Spokane
Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim, Tacoma

CommuteSmart Champion Award
Safeco, Redmond and King County

** The above article is from WSDOT's Public Transportation and Commute Options Office*



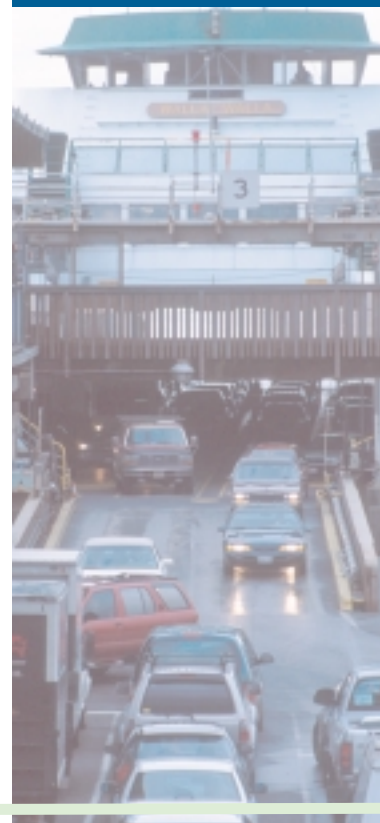
Do you have questions about ridesharing on the ferries?

Send your questions or story ideas to Rideshare Currents. We look forward to hearing from our readers.

To submit story ideas or comments, please send them:

RIDESHARE CURRENTS

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Currents Trivia

- 173 registered vanpools traveling on WSF each day
- 69 Percent of US households that own 2 or more vehicles.
- 68 Percent of Puget Sound freeways and streets considered congested
- 17.17 Average miles per gallon achieved per vehicle in 2000

Who You Gonna Call? Commute Contacts for Every County

Want to improve your commute, but don't know who to contact for assistance in your area? Listed below is transit contact information for Seattle and surrounding areas.

Commuter Contact Information

Information by County

King County

King County Metro

Rider Information Center (206) 553-3000
Automated Bus Schedules (206) BUS-TIME
Park and Rides (206) 625-4500
transit.metrokc.gov

Kitsap County

Kitsap Transit

Customer Information (360) 377-BUSS (2877)
Park and Rides (360) 377-BUSS (2877)
(800) 501-RIDE
www.kitsaptransit.org

Snohomish County

Community Transit

(425) 353-RIDE (7433) or (800) 562-1375
TDD 425/778-2188
www.commttrans.org

Pierce County

Pierce Transit

Customer Information (253) 581-8000 or
(800) 562-8109
<http://www.ptbus.pierce.wa.us/>

Regional

(Covering King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties)

Sound Transit

Customer Service (888) 889-6368 or
(888) 713-6030
www.soundtransit.org

General Information

Ferries

Washington State Ferries
(800) 84-FERRY or (206) 464-6400
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

Ridematching Assistance

Puget Sound's Regional Ridematch
(206) 263-6088 or (206) 515-3828
<http://www.rideshareonline.com/>

Public Vanpool Providers

(Covering: King, Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston, Snohomish, and Island Counties)
<http://www.rideshareonline.com/vprovide.htm>

Traffic

WA State DOT highway info. Line
1-800-695-7623
Greater Seattle Area (206) 368-4499
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/PugetSoundTraffic>
• WSDOT's Current Traffic Conditions Map
<http://www.smarttrek.org>
• Real time traveler information

Bicycling

Cascade Bicycle Club Hotline
(206) 522-BIKE

Bicycle Alliance

(206) 224-9252
<http://www.bicyclealliance.org>



Members of Kitsap Van #300 have been vanpooling to work since the 1970's. Members from left to right with their respective membership dates are as follows: Dave Kuehl (1998), Lonnie Sharkey (1982), Bob Bjornemo (1976), Ray Richards (1986), Terry Nevin (1992), Glen Moore (1993), Bud Zettle (1979), Howard Abbey (1999), Bill Lambert (2000), and Roy Perry (1989 - Not present for Picture).

